

Proposal:**2017 Workshop on Innovation and Regulation in Agriculture**

Topic: Challenges of Incorporating Higher Tier Study Data for Use in Pesticide Ecological Risk Assessments

Hosted by: College of Ag and Life Sciences, North Carolina State University, StateView Hotel, Raleigh, NC

Dates: October 23-24, 2017

In 2016, participants at the first multi-stakeholder Workshop on Innovation and Regulation in Agriculture identified the need for improved engagement and collaboration between public and private entities regarding research needed to support technological innovation in agriculture. Increased transparency was also recommended to improve public understanding and demystify the science of risk assessment. One general regulatory science topic where increased communication and multi-stakeholder collaboration could be beneficial centers on the use of higher tier studies in ecological risk assessments.

The 2017 proposed workshop will be organized in collaboration with academic, government, non-governmental, and industry representatives. Higher Tier (non-guideline) studies are often conducted by industry and academics to address uncertainties associated with highly conservative Tier I guideline testing. Higher Tier studies are by nature more complex and more difficult to conduct and to interpret. Some classes of compounds have been the subject of numerous higher tier studies e.g., water monitoring, biomonitoring, multiple mesocosms, or spray drift studies. In addition, sometimes studies conducted by different investigators appear to give conflicting results. While scientists can often come to agreement on technical aspects related to a particular study, difficulties arise in the interpretation of multiple studies and use of these studies to make regulatory decisions. For purposes of this workshop, a class of compounds currently under registration review by the US EPA, pyrethroid insecticides, will be used as a case study for discussion.

Goals of the proposed workshop

1. Examine the current regulatory landscape with respect to the use of higher tier studies in environmental risk assessments and identify the greatest challenges.
2. Develop a series of recommendations for overcoming the challenges associated with the use of higher tier studies in risk assessment and risk management of pesticides.

Expected Outcomes:

1. Report from workshop to be published in an appropriate venue as a means of improving transparency among all stakeholders (publication venue tbd).
2. Improved quality and quantity of feedback for regulators and involved stakeholders on both the use, and interpretation of higher tiered studies and pyrethroids, leading to general recommendations that can be implemented for other risk assessments.

Proposed Format:

- Pre-workshop participant survey and background materials distributed
- Social event on evening prior to workshop

Day 1**Morning:**

- Opening session, setting the stage for the workshop. Audience limited to workshop participants.
- Late morning (2-2.5 hour public scientific session) – series of scientific lectures addressing various challenging aspects related to pyrethroids risk assessment and risk management and possible solutions. Also include short presentation on new Center of Excellence for Regulatory Science.

Afternoon:

- First Breakout session followed by an initial group discussion

Evening: social event

Day 2**Morning and Working Lunch:**

- Second breakout session to develop proposed recommendations with reporting out from each group.
- Seek consensus on a set of recommendations

Post workshop – Development of Workshop Report

Target workshop group size ~30 people + facilitators/organizers